

Earliest History of Soldier Summit:

11 Sep 1776 Escalante & Dominguez in "Grassy Pass." So it was called for many years

1843 Captain John C Fremont Camped in "Grassy Pass."

1846 Jim Bridger & Bill Jackson passed over "Grassy Pass," in 1846.

1860 The 5th Regiment of US Army infantry & 3 companies of the 10th Regiment traveled up Spanish Fork Canyon, across "Grassy Pass" to White River head; thence down White River to Green River into New Mexico

12 WHITNEY'S POPULAR HISTORY OF UTAH.

named "The Pathfinder," came to the shores of the Great Salt Lake in the autumn of 1843, after crossing the Rocky Mountains on his second exploring expedition to the West.



CAPTAIN FREMONT.

The year before he had ventured only as far as South Pass. Accompanied by "Kit" Carson and others, he now entered "The Great Basin," and on the sixth of September, from the crest of an elevated peninsula (Low Mountain), a little north of Weber River, caught his first glimpse of America's "Dead Sea." Launching his rubber boat he explored Fremont Island, named by him Disappointment Island, because he failed to find there the fertile fields and abundant game he had anticipated.* Fremont seems to have thought it probable that he

was the first white man, if not to see, at least to use a boat upon, this remarkable body of water. The Lake, however, had been discovered and boats launched upon it many years before the Pathfinder appeared upon the scene.

The Fur Hunters—James Bridger.—Early in the nineteenth century this region had been overrun by British and American fur hunters, one of whom, James Bridger, commonly known as Colonel Bridger, claimed to have discovered the Lake in 1825.†

Bridger was then trapping on Bear River. In order to

*Disappointment Island was renamed Fremont Island by Captain Howard Stansbury, U. S. A., in 1849.

†John Jacob Astor, of New York City, was the patriarch of the fur trade in the United States. As told by Washington Irving, in his entertaining volume "Astoria," Astor founded the American Fur Company, in 1808-1809, and later established Astoria, an Indian trading post, at the mouth of the Columbia River. His plan was to have a line of such posts along the Missouri and the Columbia, with Astoria as the emporium or base of supplies. This was the first attempt by an American citizen to break the monopoly of the fur trade inherited by the British from the French at the conquest of Canada. Astor desired New York, instead of London, to be the main market for the lucrative trade in American peltries. He proposed to dispute the supremacy of the British fur companies among the Indian tribes of the Great West, and at the same time form a friendly alliance with the Russian Fur Company, which supplied St. Petersburg and the Chinese Empire with the prod-



Jim Bridger

aid from Spring-Spanish Fork Canyon, to Mill Fork

By Spring of 1896 the tracks reached the forks of Soldier Creek, where the town of Tucker was to be located.

By 1877 finally the track went up Soldier Creek South Fork (now called Starvation) up the canyon and over the summit 20 miles west of Soldier Pass—entering Pleasant Valley to the Coal Fields. (see "Soldier Summit 1776 to 1972," by Vern Jeffers p344)

In 1880 the Utah & Pleasant Valley Railroad was taken over by Rio Grande Western Railroad & the track relaid over Soldier Pass to connect = Denver & Rio Grande rails near the Utah-Coronado State line.

The first time table of this railroad listed Grassy Pass as Soldier Summit & that is how Soldier Summit got its name. A small depot was built there in the fall of 1880.

1890 The railroad up Spanish Fork Canyon was changed from narrow to standard gauge rails. A new & larger depot was built at Soldier Summit. The population was now people.

1900 The population was 400 & a new cement & steel jail was built.

An LDS Church was built, & Teancum Pratt was its 1st Bishop.

3 saloons were built
Mr Peterson built a dairy
SW of Soldier Summit town.

Clyde Nason was Postmaster
Mr Munk and Mr Jones each
had built a barber shop.

Andy Pappas had established gambling
and Saloon services.

1918 Soldier Summit became division
service center for locomotives, located
between SLC & Grand Junction Colo.

1918 to 1929 Prosperity for Soldier Summit.

1921 Sold. Sum. was incorporated. Popula 1000.
Jerry R Springer was 1st Mayor
School was started = Chas. Bronson principal.

Earliest History of Soldier Summit:

1929 Denver & Rio Grande moved their
shops from Soldier Summit to Helper
Utah, so Soldier Summit began to die
a slow death

198 Soldier Summit was disincorp-
orated.